

Scot, Selena & Olie Brown

Serving the Lord in Hungary



Meet Dr. Yousef Dib and His Daughter, Miriann

Dr. Yousef Dib has been a dear friend for many years, originally helping me exchange currency in Budapest. Over time, I learned his story: he came from Syria to study economics in Budapest in the 1970s, earned his PhD, met and married a Hungarian woman, and made Hungary his home. He's a brilliant man with a deep concern for his homeland.

Three years ago, while Miriann was visiting from Southern California, she fell seriously ill. When I stopped by Yousef's office, I found her downstairs in pain. Though I knew Yousef was a Muslim, I felt strongly led to ask if I could pray for her. She wept as I prayed, and I left trusting God had healed her. Two days later, Yousef and his friends greeted me warmly, and Miriann had recovered and flown home.

This past November, I returned with Selena and saw Miriann again. Yousef was on the phone with the hospital—his wife had just suffered a stroke related to Parkinson's. Before they left, I asked if we could pray a Christian prayer. They agreed, and we joined hands. God graciously answered—she was discharged the next day. Miriann then told me her mother had been a Christian and had attended church.

Sadly, just over a month later, Yousef's wife passed away—one of three significant losses he's endured recently, including his mother and oldest friend. He is deeply grieving.

When we return, we plan to gather in his office with his longtime friends, Mordecai and Attila, to read and discuss God's Word. Please pray for the Holy Spirit to soften their hearts, open their eyes and ears, and bring salvation to their families.



Prayer Request for Marianna

Our dear Marianna, pictured here with Selena at the hospital at Semmelweis University, has been suffering from a serious and painful condition for the past six months. The pain has been so severe that she's had to take a semester off from her PhD program. Please join us in praying for her full healing, strength, and comfort during this difficult time.

Ladies Bible Study Group

Selena is part of a vibrant ladies' Bible study group with women from over ten different countries. It's a beautiful picture of unity in Christ across cultures, and a true encouragement each week!



Bible Study Meeting at Coffe Shop

We also regularly join a Bible study with our pastor at a local coffee shop, where believers from many different countries gather. It's a rich time of fellowship, learning, and encouragement as we grow together in God's Word.

European Initiative

We love joining the European Initiative for street evangelization in Budapest. It's an incredible opportunity to share the gospel and connect with people from all walks of life in the heart of the city.



Home Meetings

We truly cherish these ladies in our lives. The first is a mother with her son, Rusha, and Jud—exiles from Syria who were granted a limited work visa in Hungary. We met them at their shop before their business unfortunately failed. Eight months prior, Jud's little brother had passed away suddenly, leaving them grieving and alone. Over time, we began meeting at each other's homes, sharing meals, reading Psalms, and praying together. They've since moved to Germany to start fresh and are now overjoyed with the birth of a new baby girl, bringing them renewed hope.



Behind Rusha is Maryam, a determined woman from Iran. She's completed dental school, passed her boards, learned Dutch, and is now moving to the Netherlands to establish her practice. Maryam is one of our first and closest students. Though she is Muslim by heritage, she is a secular thinker who has voiced her desire for her country to be free from oppression and views "religion" as the source of much of the world's sorrow. We agree with her on many points. Despite this, she reads her Farsi Bible and prays with us. Our conversations are deep and intellectually honest, and we continue to pray that God will reveal Himself to her.

Please join us in praying for Maryam—that the Holy Spirit would soften her heart and open her eyes to the truth of Christ.

Sarah, pictured between Selena and Olison, is a veterinary student from Norway and a passionate believer. We're so grateful for her friendship and the joy she brings to our group.

Then there's Anne, the woman in front of Selena. We met her in an unexpected way—on an elevator at the central subway station. We struck up a conversation and invited her to dinner. A few nights later, she came over, and we learned her story. Anne is from Botswana and had been very isolated since a fellow student left a year ago. When the pandemic hit, she became seriously ill with ovarian cancer, requiring surgery, radiation, and chemotherapy. With her parents unable to come and no classes or students around due to lockdown, she felt deeply lonely.

She has since made incredible strides, working on her medical degree in Budapest while also studying remotely at Johns Hopkins in the U.S. Anne loves Jesus and has developed a profound appreciation for life, despite her hardships. She fits so well with our group, and we are blessed to walk alongside her in this season.

Many nights we have no idea how many are coming so we always set all the places on three tables. And more than a few times we have to reset five or six places for stragglers.



Meet Sibel from Turkey and Marianna from Armenia

Two young women who should never be in a photo together. Sibel's family lost everything in a devastating earthquake that also claimed the lives of her sister and brother-in-law. With no support from Turkey, she came to Budapest on a scholarship, encouraged by her sister to pursue her dreams.

Marianna is from Artsakh, an Armenian enclave in Azerbaijan, and was unable to visit her family due to the blockade. When war broke out, she lost her home and homeland, along with over 120,000 others fleeing to Armenia. Despite the history between their countries, Sibel and Marianna became friends.

Sibel's mother, Anna, visited Budapest, grieving her losses. We met her and, through Sibel's translation, shared a meal, prayed, and read Psalms together. Anna said she experienced peace for the first time since the earthquakes. She stayed longer and even spoke to Marianna's mother about their families' well-being.

This story is a testament to God's grace, healing, and unexpected connections.